Impact of Excise Duties on Prices of Petroleum Products

†721. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prices of Petroleum Products have been linked with their excise duties.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Dealers, Pump-owners earn huge profit due to implementation of Government's decision after one or two days of their announcements; and

(d) if so, whether it is also a fact that the consumers are cheated by the pump-owners by depositing the bank-drafts in previous dates and by stopping the supply at petrol pumps keeping in view of possibility of fluctuation in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) With a view to partially contain the impact of the increase in the international oil prices on the domestic price of petrol and diesel, the Government reduced the excise duty rate on these products by 2% each from 4th June, 2002.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

International and Domestic Prices of LPG and Kerosene

722. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government appear to be in a dilemma over the increase in the gap between the international and domestic prices of LPG and Kerosene; and

(b) what formula Government is going to adopt to resolve the gap i.e. difference between the domestic and international prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government is subsidizing the consumer prices of domestic LPG and Kerosene distributed through the public distribution system.

Recommendation for World Heritage Sites

723. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kumbhalgarh Fort and Ranakpur Jain Temple Complex of Rajasthan would be recommended for World Heritage Site status next year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to recommend any tourist place in Tamilnadu in particular and other States in general for World Heritage Site status;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government. In due course, suitable recommendation, by Government of India could be made.

(c) and (d) Two World Heritage Sites from Tamilnadu are already on the World Heritage List and thirteen sites from India have been proposed and placed on the tentative list for nomination to the World Heritage List of UNESCO. Statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement

Tentative List of Indian Sites for Nomination to World Heritage

1. Prehistoric Rock Shelter and Caves with Paintings at Bhimbetka, Madhya Pradesh
2. Remains of the Historical City of Champaner, Gujarat
3. Dholavira, a harappan City, Gujarat